



The Children's Ark, Church Road,
Pendeen,
TR19 7SE
Tel: (01736) 787167
office@childrens-ark.org.uk
Charity ref: 1147389
Ofsted: EY457353

Makaton Policy

The Children's Ark uses Makaton as part of our general practice and adopts a whole setting approach to its implementation.

About Makaton

Makaton is a language programme that supports communication using speech, signs and symbols and utilises non-verbal methods of communication. This allows us to make our communication visual and by slowing down our communication, it allows the children time to process, and understand the language being used.

We believe Makaton benefits all children in developing their language and literacy skills, and is not solely used for children with additional needs, although would enable an inclusive environment should a child use Makaton to communicate.

Use of Makaton

To maintain the effective use of Makaton within our setting we will:

- Ensure all staff use signs in our setting.

- Attend suitable levels of training and ensure that the information is fed back to the staff via staff meetings.
- Attend regular training to upkeep skills and increase the level of signs, so as not to create a ceiling effect on the signs taught.
- Share relevant information with parents, including the signs that are being used.
- Use symbols to support children, e.g. with transition times, in visual timetables and choice boards or on reward charts.
- Update evidence file.
- Review this policy annually.

In our area, we are able to contact the Early Years Makaton lead and is available to offer support and guidance to our setting with regard to implementing Makaton.

This policy was adopted at a staff meeting of The Children's Ark:

Signed..... Print Name.....

Dated.....

And at The Children's Ark committee meeting:

Signed by chairperson..... Print Name.....

Dated.....

Date of review.....